

Statement*Incidence of Dowry Deaths by burning during 1996
(States & UT-Wise)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Incidence	Remarks (figures are upto the month of)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80	November*
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	September
3.	Assam	1	June
4.	Bihar	NA	—
5.	Goa	1	
6.	Gujarat	23	November
7.	Haryana	50	September
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	August
10.	Karnataka	56	December**
11.	Kerala	5	November
12.	Madhya Pradesh	211	November
13.	Maharashtra	116	
14.	Manipur	0	
15.	Meghalaya	0	February
16.	Mizoram	0	
17.	Nagaland	0	
18.	Orissa	6	July
19.	Punjab	29	July
20.	Rajasthan	89	October
21.	Sikkim	0	November
22.	Tamil Nadu	17	November
23.	Tripura	0	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	581	November
25.	West Bengal	17	September
Total		1283	
26.	A & N Islands	0	November
27.	Chandigarh	0	—

1	2	3	4
28.	D & N Haveli	0	
29.	Daman & Diu	NA	—
30.	Delhi	59	
31.	Lakshadweep	0	October
32.	Pondicherry	1	
Total (All-India)		1343	

Source monthly crime statistics.

Note : 1. Figs. are provisional

2. NA Stands for not available.

3. * Figs. excluding October 96 data.

4. ** Figs. excluding November 96 data.

[Translation]

Sugar Export

*55. SHRI D.P. YADAV :

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA
MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had decided to decanalise be pleased to state ;

(b) if so, the national stock position of sugar, the availability of sugar for Public Distribution System and for open market along with the prevailing domestic price of sugar on the eve of this decision;

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production and control the prices of sugar in indigenous market;

(d) whether non-payment of remunerative prices to sugarcane growers will adversely affect sugar export policy of the Government ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIERS, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Sugar Export Promotion Act was repealed on 15.01.1997 with a view to encourage private initiative in the export of sugar. The sugar season 1996-97, beginning 1.10.1996, started with a carry over stock of 80.78 lakh tonnes. This included a quantity of 13.32 lakh tonnes to levy sugar, enough to meet about 3 months requirement of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the current season. After meeting the internal demand, even on 31.12.1996, sugar stock was of the order of 73.71 lakh tonnes. Export of sugar has been allowed to increase the marketability of free-sale sugar and strengthen the financial viability of sugar manufacturing units, particularly, as in the domestic market, from October, 1996 onwards, the wholesale prices

of freesale sugar reflected a moderate downward trend. This is considered necessary to enable the factories to pay remunerative prices to cane growers and to keep up the production of sugar.

Agriculture Research and Development

*56. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether expenditure on Agriculture Research and Development is very low in India in comparison to the other developing countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any special steps are being taken by the Government to promote the Agriculture Research and Development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The current expenditure on agricultural research in India is not very low. It is about 0.3 percent of agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) as compared to around 0.3 to 0.75 percent in the developing countries. However, a norm of 1% of agricultural GDP is suggested to be the minimum research investment target. Higher allocations to meet the target have not been possible on account of resource constraints.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken steps to increase the Plan outlay for R&D from Rs. 85 crore in IV Five Year Plan to Rs. 1300 crore in VIII Five Year Plan. Further, keeping in view the recommendations of the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture as well as the realistic resource requirements for agricultural R&D, the IX Plan Working Group of DARE/ICAR has recommended to the Planning Commission that the investment in agricultural research should be raised to at least 1 per cent of Agricultural GDP during the IX Five Year Plan.

[English]

Investigation by NHRC

*57. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has investigated the charges of starvation deaths in Orissa;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b)

A Team of officers of the National Human Rights Commission had undertaken a preliminary visit to Orissa on 12-14 December, 1996 for collection of facts about the reported starvation deaths. Government have not received any report from the commission in this regard so far.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Atrocities on Girls

*58. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
KUMARI UMABHARATI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that NCC girls of Jammu and Kashmir returning to their homes after performing in the Republic Day Celebrations in Delhi, were molested in the running train near Meerut on January 30, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the incident;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(e) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) According to information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, on 30.1.1997, a group of 25 artistes comprising of 5 men and 20 women from Jammu & Kashmir was going back by Shalimar Express after participating in the Republic Day celebrations. There was an altercation over seating in the compartment between some women artistes and daily passengers who reportedly misbehaved with the artistes. 2 BSF jawans and 1 GRP jawan also sustained injuries during the incident while trying to intervene.

2. A case under sections 147/323/332/353/354/308 IPC and 145 Railways Act has been registered in GRP Meerut. Twelve accused persons have so far been arrested. Three other accused persons have surrendered. Action against two persons named in the FIR was taken under the National Security Act and they have been served externment notices by the District Magistrate.

Naxalite Activities

*59. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :